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--ABSTRACT

A thermoplastic polymer composition reinforced with fibers such as cellulose or other fillers, particularly from natural sources, and a process for manufacturing the composition are disclosed. The polymer is extruded with a salt which reduces the melting point and pelletized. The pellets are then extruded again with the filler. ~~The preferred process for making the fiber-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition comprises melting a high melting temperature thermoplastic polymer, mixing the melted thermoplastic polymer with an organic or inorganic salt to reduce the melting temperature of the melted thermoplastic polymer to a melting temperature which does not degrade the fibers, and then adding the fibers to the reduced melting temperature thermoplastic polymer-salt mixture to produce the natural fiber-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition.~~ The natural fiber-reinforced thermoplastic polymer composition with the filler can then be melted at the reduced melting temperature to manufacture an article ~~a plurality of articles.~~--